



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/298,586	04/23/1999	ERIC JUSTIN GOULD	MNKYP007	2214

28875 7590 05/08/2002

SILICON VALLEY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP  
P.O. BOX 721120  
SAN JOSE, CA 95172-1120

EXAMINER

SINGH, RACHNA

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2176

DATE MAILED: 05/08/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/298,586

Applicant(s)

GOULD ET AL. *WT*

Examiner

Rachna Singh

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 April 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to application filed 4/23/99.
2. Claims 1 and 10 are independent claims.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 5-9, 10 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al., US Patent 6,128,712, 10/3/2000 (filed 1/31/97).

In reference to claims 1 and 10, Hunt discloses a method and apparatus in which interactive multimedia work is delivered to a user in a variety of formats including live presentations, the Internet, and television broadcasts. The multimedia work is made up of individual segments each having a beginning and an end point. The segments are linked together sequentially (compared to ***"retrieving information comprising one or more segments. . .having a beginning and an end. . .at least one segment is associated with one or more links to the one or more second segments"***). See column 1. Hunt teaches a method in which the user selects a segment to be played. For example, if a video clip contained in a segment is sought to be played, then the user can select that segment to be played next. See columns 1-2 and figure 1. Hunt's method shows that it was known to have a segment associated with one or more links to one or more second segments. Hunt discloses that the segment is selected as the

end of the segment is approached (compared to ***"determining prior to reaching the end if expansion is desired"***). See column 5, lines 35-40. Hunt does not explicitly disclose the combinations; however, it is implicit and obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the disclosed method steps for use in playing stored multimedia information to provide a method of playing multimedia information wherein a segment is associated to one or more second segments and selection of a second segment enables it to be played.

In reference to claims 5-6 and 15-16, Hunt discloses a means in which the user indicates the segment to be viewed next. The indicated segment is then played (compared to ***"step of responding to a user indicia to expand a link to another segment and playing the segment"***) See columns 1-2.

In reference to claims 7 and 17, Hunt's method links dynamically to the second segment (compared to ***"step of responding to user indicia to dynamically link. . ."***). See column 1-2.

In reference to claims 8 and 18, Hunt's method teaches that the subsequent segment can provide more detailed information about the current segment such as a video clip used within a segment (compared to ***"...step of responding to user indicia to expand a link to another segment. . ."***). See columns 1-2.

In reference to claims 9 and 19, Hunt discloses the system in which the information is delivered in a live presentation (compared to ***"...providing live information. . ."***) See column 1.

5. Claims 2-4, 11-13, 14, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hunt et al., US Patent 6,128,712, 10/3/2000 (filed 1/31/97) as applied to claims 1 and 10 above, and further in view of Savchenko et al., US Patent 6,343,298, 1/29/02 (filed 4/3/1997).

In reference to claim 2-4 and 11-13, Hunt does not explicitly disclose a means in which the play is returned to the original segment after the expanded link is played; however, Savchenko discloses a "seamless multimedia branching". Savchenko's method enables a user to switch from one continuous multimedia clip to another in response to user input in a seamless manner (compared to claims 3 and 12's "... **information from a multimedia source**"). Savchenko's method further teaches branching all media clips so that there is no delay in the jumps to non-continuous segments. The segments or clips are bridged such that the segments progress sequentially (compared to claims 2 and 11's "**returning play to original segment . . .**"). See column 3, lines 5-20 and figures 5-9. Furthermore, Hunt does teach his system to exist over the Internet (compared to claims 4 and 13's) "**. . . including information from a multimedia source**") See column 1. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Hunt's method of selecting and playing linked segments with Savchenko's method of seamlessly returning the play to the original segment since it allows the user to continue viewing where he or she left off.

In reference to claims 14 and 20, it is well known in the art to use a broadband network in supporting an Internet protocol.

**Conclusion**

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US Patent 6,144,375	Jain et al.	11/7/00
US Patent 6,377,996	Lumelsky et al.	4/23/02
US Patent 6,181,332	Salahshour et al.	1/30/01
US Patent 5,892,507	Moorby et al.	4/6/99

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rachna Singh at 703.305.1952. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at 703.308.5186.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703.305.3900.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

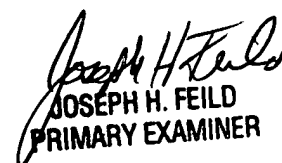
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

<b>After-Final</b>	<b>703.746.7238</b>
<b>Official</b>	<b>703.746.7239</b>
<b>Non-Official/Draft</b>	<b>703.746.7240</b>

Hand-Delivered responses should be brought to Crystal park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Rachna Singh  
May 1, 2002

  
JOSEPH H. FEILD  
PRIMARY EXAMINER